

EXHIBIT C

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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IN RE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TUITION	:	Lead Case No. 1:20-cv-03208 (JMF)
REFUND ACTION	:	
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DECLARATION OF STUDENT A

I, Student A, make this Declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

1. I am an anonymous Plaintiff in this action. I was a student at Defendant Columbia University in March 2020, the Spring 2020 semester.
2. On December 3, 2021, I was appointed by this Court for purposes of settlement as one of the four Settlement Class Representatives. (ECF. No. 87). I submit this Declaration in support of Plaintiffs' request that I be granted a case contribution award for my efforts on behalf of the Class.
3. I currently reside in, and am a citizen of New York City, New York.
4. I am represented by Roy T. Willey, IV of Anastopoulos Law Firm LLC in South Carolina, Co-Lead Counsel in this action.
5. I initiated contact with the Anastopoulos Law Firm LLC and had discussions with Mr. Willey and his staff as to the duties and obligations of a plaintiff in a proposed class action. I was willing to make my identity known to Defendant but not publicly. As such, I agreed to join the case as an anonymous plaintiff.
6. I reviewed a draft of the complaint and authorized it to be filed to continue this lawsuit on behalf of myself and on behalf of a proposed class. The complaint that included me as Student A was filed in this Court in Case No.: 1:20-cv-3208 on April 23, 2020. (ECF No. 1). I

would like to note I was the first student to come forward and file suit against Columbia and did such risking my career in academia.

7. I understood that my action was consolidated with the similar action filed by Plaintiff Emmaline Bennett on May 5, 2022. (ECF No. 13).

8. I also reviewed a draft of the consolidated class action complaint and authorized it to be filed to again continue this lawsuit on behalf of myself and on behalf of a proposed class. The consolidated class action complaint that included me as Student A was filed in this Court on June 3, 2020 (ECF No. 26).

9. I understood that further amendments of the complaint were necessary and that a consolidated amended class action complaint that included me as Student A was filed in this Court on June 9, 2020 (ECF No. 28). I also understood that after Defendant's motion to dismiss, a consolidated second amended class action complaint that included me as Student A was filed in this Court on July 22, 2020 (ECF No. 42).

10. In joining and then prosecuting the suit, I hoped to obtain a monetary recovery for myself and all other similarly situated Columbia University students who were forced onto an emergency remote teaching platform and denied access to the campus and campus facilities for which all the students had paid tuition and other fees.

11. Once I became a plaintiff in this case, I conferred regularly with Anastopoulos Law Firm. In addition to numerous telephone calls with counsel to discuss the case, I also exchanged with my counsel in emails and texts about the progress of the case. Additionally I regularly monitored PACER for case developments.

12. Mr. Willey and his staff often had questions for and needed information and documents from me concerning my time at Columbia, my interactions with the University,

documents generated by me and/or the University which the University and I exchanged, all in an effort to advance the claims of the students that the University had breached its contracts with the students and/or had been unjustly enriched at our expense by retaining the tuition and fees we had paid for Sprint 2020 semester. I readily provided to him whatever I knew or could find that he requested.

13. I also participated in the following activities during the course of the litigation: (i) reviewing and investigating claims against Columbia; (ii) communicating with my counsel in connection with the investigation of the claim and the preparation of the amended class action complaint and the consolidated amended class action that included me and the filing of both; (iii) following news stories about Columbia and the closure of the campus and alerting my counsel to any that seemed relevant; (iv) reviewing and approving both complaints filed on my behalf and other pleadings and documents filed in the action and discussions with my counsel in connection therewith; (v) regular update communications with counsel concerning the status and strategy of the action; (vi) regular updates with my counsel regarding Defendant's motion to dismiss the operative complaint, Plaintiffs' partially successful efforts to oppose the motion to dismiss with the claims regarding fees surviving but the claims regarding tuition having been dismissed; (vii) communications with my counsel about the settlement negotiations my counsel were holding with the University's counsel in an to attempt to settle this case; (viii) review and approval of the terms of the proposed settlement; and (ix) review of the written settlement documents and the motion papers to this Court to give preliminary approval to this settlement and for final approval.

14. I understood that my participation in this action, even as an anonymous plaintiff, could potentially subject me to hard feelings and retribution from the University, an institution I admired and paid a large sum of money to attend. I further knew that my participation in this

lawsuit might hurt my future career prospects, recommendations that I might not now receive and alumni networking that might now be foreclosed to me.

15. Nonetheless, I agreed to subject myself to that potential scrutiny and run these serious professional risks for the benefit of the proposed class.

16. I approached each of these tasks with diligence, focus, and commitment.

17. I was aware from discussions with Mr. Willey that early informal settlement talks had not produced any common ground between the parties. I conferred with Mr. Willey on Defendant's offer after the motion to dismiss was decided for the Parties to engage in settlement negotiations and I agreed that the parties should discuss settlement.

18. I agreed with my counsel that the last and final offer made by Defendant to pay 100% of the refund Plaintiffs and the class sought for the component of the action concerning the fees, together with an additional four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to further compensate the class, for a total of \$12,500,000, should be accepted by Plaintiffs as in the best interests of the Class and presented to this Court for its review.

19. I recently received via an email to my Columbia University email account, a copy of the Settlement notice which I understand was also emailed to all class members in January of 2022. It directed me to the Claims Administration website where I was able to see the further details of the Settlement and the various different mechanisms that class members can select to receive their share of the Settlement Fund, such as by paper check, Venmo or Paypal. I made my selection.

20. I have not kept detailed daily or other time records which would show the precise amount of time which I have devoted to this Action but I have reviewed my records of my communications with Plaintiffs' counsel and the vast volume of court papers I reviewed. I estimate

that my total time devoted to this litigation, including all of my phone calls, emails and other consultations with Plaintiffs' counsel, reviewing the pleadings and other court papers in the case, together with the time I spent consulting on and reviewing the terms of the proposed settlement and the written settlement papers, involved many dozens of hours of my time from 2020 to the present.

21. For all the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that this Court grant me and the other named Plaintiffs the requested case contribution award from the funds obtained in this Settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 4, 2022

Student A
Student A